

Example Candidate Responses

Cambridge IGCSE[®] Physics **0625** Paper 3





In order to help us develop the highest quality Curriculum Support resources, we are undertaking a continuous programme of review; not only to measure the success of our resources but also to highlight areas for improvement and to identify new development needs.

We invite you to complete our survey by visiting the website below. Your comments on the quality and relevance of Cambridge Curriculum Support resources are very important to us.

https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GL6ZNJB

Do you want to become a Cambridge consultant and help us develop support materials?

Please follow the link below to register your interest.

http://cie.org.uk/cambridge-for/teachers/teacherconsultants/

Cambridge International Examinations retains the copyright on all its publications. Registered Centres are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use. However, we cannot give permission to Centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within a Centre.



Contents

Introduction	2
Assessment at a glance	4
Paper 3 – Theory (Core)	5



Introduction

The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching IGCSE Physics (0625), and to show how different levels of candidates' performance (middle and low) relate to the subject's curriculum and assessment objectives.

In this booklet candidate responses have been chosen to exemplify a range of answers. Each response is accompanied by a brief commentary explaining the strengths and weaknesses of the answers.

For each question, response is annotated with clear explanation of where and why marks were awarded or omitted. This, in turn, followed by examiner comments on how the answer could have been improved. In this way it is possible for you to understand what candidates have done to gain their marks and what they will have to do to improve their marks. At the end there is a list of common mistakes candidates made in their answers for each question.

This document provides illustrative examples of candidate work. These help teachers to assess the standard required to achieve marks, beyond the guidance of the mark scheme. Some question types where the answer is clear from the mark scheme, such as short answers and multiple choice, have therefore been omitted.

The questions, mark schemes and pre-release material used here are available to download from Teacher Support. These files are:

Question Paper 3, June 2016				
Question paper	0625_s16_qp_31.pdf			
Mark scheme	0625_s16_ms_31.pdf			
Question Paper 4, June 2016				
Question paper	0625_s16_qp_41.pdf			
Mark scheme	0625_s16_ms_41.pdf			
Question Paper 6, June 2016				
Question paper	0625_s16_qp_61.pdf			
Mark scheme	0625_s16_ms_61.pdf			

Other past papers, Examiner Reports and other teacher support materials are available on Teacher Support at https://teachers.cie.org.uk



How to use this booklet



How the candidate could have improved the answer

- (a) To achieve full marks candidate should have
- (c) The candidate should have calculated the are 81m having to gain full marks.

Examiner comments This explains how the candidate could have improved the answer. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams and helps your learners to refine exam technique.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(b) A common misconception was that the cycli

Common mistakes a list of common mistakes candidates made in their answers for each question.

(c) A common incorrect value was 108m. Candic the maximum speed by the total time. They did n



Assessment at a glance

All candidates take must enter for three papers.

Core candidates take:		Ex
Paper 1 45 minute	es	Pa
Multiple Choice 30 ⁴	%	Mu
40 marks		40
40 four-choice multiple-choice questions		40
Questions will be based on the Core subjec content	t	Qu sut
Assessing grades C–G		As
Externally assessed		Ext
and:		an
Paper 3 1 hour 15 minute	es	Ра
Theory 50 ⁴	%	The
80 marks		80
Short-answer and structured questions		Sh
Questions will be based on the Core subject content		
Assessing grades C–G		
Externally assessed		Ext
All candidates take either:		or:
Paper 5 1 hour 15 minute	es	Ра
Practical Test 20 ⁰	%	Alte
40 marks		40
Questions will be based on the experimenta skills in Section 4	ıl	Qu ski
Assessing grades A*–G		
Externally assessed		Ext

Extended candidates take:

Paper 2	45 minutes			
Multiple Choice	30%			
40 marks				
40 four-choice multiple-ch	oice questions			
Questions will be based o subject content (Core and	n the Extended Supplement)			
Assessing grades A*–G				
Externally assessed				
and:				
Paper 4	1 hour 15 minutes			
Theory	50%			
80 marks				
Short-answer and structured questions				
Questions will be based on the Extended subject content (Core and Supplement)				
Assessing grades A*–G				
Externally assessed				
or:				
Paper 6	1 hour			
Alternative to Practical	20%			
40 marks				
Questions will be based on the experimental skills in Section 4				
Assessing grades A*–G				
Externally assessed				

Teachers are reminded that the latest syllabus is available on our public website at **www.cie.org.uk** and Teacher Support at **https://teachers.cie.org.uk**



Paper 3 – Theory (Core)

Question 1





(a) To achieve full marks candidate should have given details of the motion of the runner.

(c) The candidate should have calculated the area of the triangle correctly and reached the final value of 81m to gain full marks.







(a) The candidate has given no indication that the initial motion is acceleration. The higher acceleration of the cyclist should have been linked with the steeper gradient shown on the graph.

(c) The use of distance = speed x time does not take into account the acceleration taking place during the first six seconds of the journey. Subtracting 27m would have given a correct response.

(d) The question is about the runner. To gain full credit the candidate needs to complete the runner's motion rather than the cyclist's.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(b) A common misconception was that the cyclist had stopped moving.

(c) A common incorrect value was 108m. Candidates used the equation distance = speed x time, multiplying the maximum speed by the total time. They did not account for the initial acceleration.



E	kample Candidate Response – middle	Examiner comments
2	A boy steps off a high board into a swimming pool. Fig. 2.1 shows the forces acting on the boy at one point in his fall. $\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ $	 Correct response. Mark awarded for (a) = 1 out of 1 Although the equation is not stated, the calculation shows correct use of the equation and a correct value. Mark awarded for (b) = 2 out of 2 There is an appreciation that the resultant force acts downwards but the value of the force has been calculated incorrectly. Mark awarded for (c) = 1 out of 2
		Total mark awarded = 4 out of 5

How the candidate could have improved the answer

- (b) To improve the answer, the candidate should have stated the equation.
- (c) The candidate should have stated the correct value for resultant force which was (540-100) = 440(N).





(a) The candidate should have indicated that a frictional force, air resistance or drag, acts against the boy.

(b) This response suggests that the boy has a lower mass as he falls. The correct response for resultant force was (540-100) = 440(N)

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

A variety of responses in the range of 44 to 640 was seen. Candidates used the numbers provided in a variety of ways to obtain incorrect values.



Example Candidate Response – middle	Examiner comments
3 Fig. 3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer.	
 9 Fig.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer. 9 fig.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer. 9 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer. 9 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate plate-warmer are made from metal. 1 fag.3.1 shows a metal plate-warmer are shows and shows a shows a show and shows a shows a show and show and shows a show and shows a show and shows a s	 Correct response. The response suggests confusion between convection and conduction. Mark awarded for (a) = 1 out of 2 This is a vague response that is just repeating the question. Mark awarded for (b) = 0 out of 1 Correct response
	$\frac{1}{100} = 2 \text{ out of } 2$
	Total mark awarded = 3 out of 5

How the candidate could have improved the answer

- (a) (ii) The candidate should have stated the correct answer which was 'conduction'.
- (b) The candidate should have answered in terms of shiny surfaces being poor emitters of thermal radiation.



(a) (i) The response repeated part of the question. The name of the process by which thermal energy is transferred was required.

(a) (ii) The name of the correct thermal process was required.

(b) To gain credit the candidate must have indicated that it was reflection of thermal radiation. 'Reflection' on its own is too vague.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- (a) Few candidates confused the terms conduction, convection and radiation.
- (b) There were many responses given in terms of light rather than thermal energy being reflected.



Example Candidate Response – middle	Examiner comments
4 Fig. 4.1 is a simplified diagram of a geothermal power station.	
very hot water	
Fig. 4.1 (a) Describe the energy resource labelled X in Fig. 4.1. Renewable [1] (b) Identify the useful energy transformation that takes place in the geothermal power station.	The response does not answer the question. The correct answer is 'hot rocks'.
Tick one box in each column.	Mark awarded for (a) = 0 out of 1
input energy output energy	
electrical electrical V	2 Correct response.
gravitational gravitational	Mark awarded for (b) = 2 out of 2
sound sound	
thermal thermal	
(c) State two disadvantages of obtaining energy from fossil fuels. 1. <u>It is better pullitant</u> .	3 The first point is too vague. The second point scores a mark for non-renewable energy source.
2lt_ii. non-venewalsle.	Mark awarded for $(c) = 1$ out of 2
[2]	Total mark awarded = 3 out of 5

How the candidate could have improved the answer

- (a) The candidate needed to identify what caused the water to become very hot.
- (c) To obtain full marks the candidate must have identified atmospheric pollution or the pollution of air.





(a) The candidate needed to identify what causes the water to become very hot.

(b) The candidate should have ticked electrical for output energy.

(c) Noisy is a general term and did not gain credit. There is a range of specific disadvantages e.g. global warming or non-renewable that could have been used to gain credit.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(a) A variety of wrong responses was seen linked to renewable sources of energy, e.g. wave, tidal and hydroelectric.

(b) A small number of candidates had reversed the input and output energies.





How the candidate could have improved the answer

(a) The candidate should have indicated how large surface are affects the pressure exerted by the workers.

(b) The candidate should have calculated the total force correctly by adding the forces. Pressure = force/area should have been stated.



Example Candidate Response – Iow	Examiner comments
5 Fig. 5.1 shows two men repairing a weak roof using a crawler-board.	
crawler-board Fig. 5.1	
a) Explain why use of the crawler-board prevents the men from failing through the ropf.	
To reture friction because flot helps him 6 balance (Alife halting and Abt Scippers. and also to be able to halt poperly. 1	1 The response here indicates a misconception that the crawler board is for safety and to prevent the workers from slipping.
(b) The crawler-board has a weight of 400 N. The total weight of the two men is 1600 N. The area of the crawler-board in contact with the roof is 0.8 m ² .	Mark awarded for (a) = 0 out of 2
Calculate the pressure on the roof when the men are on the crawler-board. Include the unit. $\frac{403}{1670} \times 0.64$ pressure =	2 There is no indication that the candidate is aware of the need to use the equation P=F/A. The numbers appear to have been randomly applied to an equation. Mark awarded for (b) = 0 out of 5
	Total mark awarded = 0 out of 7

(a) The candidate should have explained that the crawler has a large surface and prevents the roof from collapsing by spreading the men's weight.

(b) The candidate should have used the correct formula P=F/A. The numbers appear to have been randomly applied to an equation.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(a) A common misconception was answers that suggested the crawler board is for safety and to prevent the workers from slipping.

(b) Stating the equation incorrectly: pressure = force x area.



Example Candidate Response – middle	Examiner comments	
6 Fig. 6.1 shows an experiment to observe the motion of smoke particles in air.		
Fig. 6.1 Fig. 6.2		
 (a) (i) Fig. 6.2 shows the view through the microscope of one smoke particle, labelled P. On Fig. 6.2, draw 3 lines to show the movement of this particle. (ii) Explain what causes the smoke particle to move. (iii) Explain what causes the smoke particle to move. (iv) Particles move about Freely in Whatterer 	 Correct response. Mark awarded for (a) = 2 out of 2 	
viville last the Move energia it into the	2 The response is not answering the question	
the mare it moves		
(b) The air containing the smoke particles becomes warmer.	Mark awarded for (b) = 0 out of 2	
Suggest how this changes the movement of the smoke particles.	3 Correct response.	
[1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1]	Mark awarded for (b) = 1 out of 1	
	Total mark awarded = 3 out of 5	

How the candidate could have improved the answer

(a) (ii) The candidate must have referred to collisions of smoke particles with air molecules.



Example Candidate Response – Iow	Examiner comments
 Fig. 6.1 shows an experiment to observe the motion of smoke particles in air. microscope ignet in air in the intersection of smoke particles in air. ignet ignet ignet is a show in a show in	 There is no appreciation of particles moving in straight lines until deflected by collisions. Mark awarded for (a) = 0 out of 2 The idea of collisions between objects gains partial credit. Mark awarded for (b) = 1 out of 2 Increased movement is too vague and does not indicate an increase in speed or an increase in collisions. Mark awarded for (c) = 0 out of 1
	Total mark awarded = 1 out of 5

(a) (i) The candidate must have clearly indicated the movement of one particle.

(a) (ii) For full credit the candidate must have stated that the collisions occurred between smoke particles and air molecules.

(b) The candidate should have indicated that smoke particles would change directions or there would be an increase in collisions.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(a) Candidates did not give a response in terms of the movement of a single particle.





How the candidate could have improved the answer

(c) The candidate should have indicated that electrical cables would be lower to the ground.



Example	e Candidate I	Respons	e – Iow			Examiner comments
7 Fig. 7.1 sh pointer roller support	ows equipment used to o	copper heat	rod] fixe	d block	1 The candidate realises that the pointer moves but indicates the wrong direction.
(a) The condition(b) As the	opper rod is heated and g. 7.1, draw the new posi e rod is heated, some of i	expands. It turns tion of the pointe its properties cha	the roller and er. ange.	moves the point	ər. [1]	Mark awarded for (a) = 0 out of 1
Identif	y how each property cha	decreases	tick in each ro increases	w of the table. stays the same		identifies that volume increases and mass stays the same. There is a misconception that density is also
	volume	1	/		2	constant as the rod is heated.
	mass			V	-	Mark awarded for $(b) = 2$ out of 3
	density		18411	~		
(c) Sugge Be Cristing Fil	st one disadvantage of the concer of the the second concer (concer concer concer concer (concer concer conc	nthermal expansion mail expansion cut of A fixed bl	n. nsionm N. Place ock.	etals co That th 3	[3] . <u>welt[1]</u> Y're[Total: 5]	 An incorrect response that did not address the question. Mark awarded for (c) = 0 out of 1
						Total mark awarded = 2 out of 5

- (a) The candidate should have indicated the correct direction which was 'to the left' or 'anticlockwise'.
- (b) The candidate needed to follow through the correct responses to identify that density would decrease.
- (c) An example of a disadvantage of thermal expansion was required, e.g. buckling of railway lines.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(b) There were a range of misconceptions about mass, volume and density changing when a material is heated.

(c) There were many vague responses in terms of buildings, bridges and railways that were not given credit.









(a) (i) Candidate was required to use the correct terminology; the correct response was 'normal'.

(c) The candidate should have shown that the image is inverted but does not meet the intersection of the two rays.









(a) (i) The correct response was normal.

(b) Only one of the labels was correct: critical angle – f. The candidate needed to have a clear understanding of the use of terms reflection and refraction to complete the table correctly.

(c) The candidate should have constructed the ray diagram correctly to obtain an inverted image.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- (b) Less well prepared candidates gave a variety of labels when completing the table.
- (c) A common misconception was the lack of refraction of a ray passing through the lens.



xample Candidate Response – middle	Examiner comments
Fig. 9.1 represents the regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. radio micro- infra - visible ultraviolet X-rays gamma rays increasing	 Correct response. An incorrect response that did not address the question asked. Mark awarded for (a) = 1 out of 2 Candidate gives two correct responses. A correct response in terms of
 (ii) Describe two safety precautions taken by people using X-rays. 1. They should not be used for a long time. 2. People using X-rays chould wear protective clothes [2] 	restricting exposure is given along with a vague response about protective clothing that is not given any credit.
 (iii) X-rays and light waves can both travel through a vacuum. Identify the correct statement. Tick one box. X-rays travel at a slower speed than light waves. X-rays travel at the same speed as light waves. X-rays travel at a faster speed than light waves. 	The candidate has ticked the wrong box indicating that X-ray travels faster than light waves. Mark awarded for (b) = 3 out of 5 Total mark awarded = 4 out of 7
[Total: 7]	lotal mark awarded = 4 out of 7

How the candidate could have improved the answer

(a) (ii) The candidate should have recognised that the electromagnetic spectrum showed increasing frequency (decreasing wavelength) from left to right.

(b) (ii) A correct response in terms of restricting the user's exposure to X-rays gains credit. A vague second response about protective clothing did not gain any further credit. The candidate should have mentioned wearing 'lead apron' or 'standing behind a screen' to gain full marks.

(b) (iii) The candidate should have indicated that X-rays travel at the same speed as light waves.



Example Candidate Response – Iow	Examiner comments
9 Fig. 9.1 represents the regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. radio micro- waves waves visible ultraviolet kaves visible light waves x-rays gamma rays	An incorrect response repeating information already included in the electromagnetic spectrum.
increasing <u>Spred</u> Fig. 9.1 (a) Complete Fig. 9.1:	2 The candidate has not appreciated that all elements of the electromagnetic spectrum travel at the same speed.
(i) Add the label of the missing region. 1 [1]	Mark awarded for (a) = 0 out of 2
 (ii) Complete the label under the arrow. 2 (b) (i) State two uses of X-rays. 1. To check your skele ton (<u>Mechicanel Hospital use</u>) 2 	3 Hospital use is too vague but the candidate has indicated a particular area that can be given benefit of doubt.
 [2] (ii) Describe two safety precautions taken by people using X-rays. 1. Sofety goggles 2. Jours 	4 Vague responses such as goggles and gloves do not gain marks.
(iii) X-rays and light waves can both travel through a vacuum. Identify the correct statement. Tick one box. X-rays travel at a slower speed than light waves.	5 A correct response identifying x- ray travel at the same speed as light waves.
X-rays travel at the same speed as light waves. X-rays travel at a faster speed than light waves. [1] [Total: 7]	Mark awarded for (b) = 2 out of 5
	Total mark awarded = 2 out of 7



(a) (i) The candidate should have indicated the correct response which was 'infra-red'.

(a) (ii) The candidate should have appreciated that all elements of the electromagnetic spectrum travel at the same speed and gives an incorrect response.

(b) (i) Only one use was given. Hospital use was too vague to gain full marks, the candidate should have clearly stated where or for what purpose in hospitals.

(b) (ii) Vague responses such as goggles and gloves do not gain any credit. Screening from X-rays and limiting exposure would have gained full credit.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- (a) (i) Incorrect responses included sound and ultra-sound.
- (a) (ii) Wavelength and speed were common misconceptions.
- (b) (i) Some very vague responses were seen, e.g. "use in pipes".
- (b) (ii) Goggles and gloves were common responses that did not gain any credit.

(b) (iii) There was a lack of appreciation that X-rays travelled at the same speed as light waves and consequently the top and bottom statements received equal numbers of incorrect responses.





(a) (ii) The candidate needed to identify Y (thermistor) rather than X.

(b) (i) A partially correct response was given. The candidate should have the curve to explain the rate of change.

(b) (iii) The candidate should have made use of the R value from part (b)(ii) rather than incorrectly calculating the value of R.







(a) (i) The candidate did not understand the difference between a series and a parallel circuit.

(a) (ii) The candidate needed to identify Y (thermistor) rather than X.

(b) (i) The candidate should have linked the curve to explain the rate of change.

(b) (ii) To calculate the combined resistance, the candidate should have added two resistances to each other rather than multiply them together.

(b) (iii) The candidate should have used the correct formula: V= IR. The equation was incorrectly stated and an incorrect value was obtained.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(b) (ii) A common misconception was a value for the combined resistance of 30 ohm.

(b) (iii) There were the full range of incorrect variations of the V = IR equation.







- (a) The candidate should have ringed two correct answers and not three.
- (b) The candidate should have labelled the magnet with one South and one North pole to gain full marks.







- (a) The candidate should have ringed <u>two</u> correct answers and not four.
- (b) The candidate should have identified the poles correctly in the bottom diagram to gain full credit.
- (c) To gain full marks the candidate should have stated 'repulsion' for the first answer.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(a) Many candidates put a ring around more than two metals. Copper was a frequent incorrect response.



Example Candidate Response – middle	Examiner comments
12 Two radioactive sources are used by a teacher. One source emits only alpha particles and the other source emits only beta particles.	
(a) Suggest how the sources can be identified. By the Matrial which they can go through Alpha Particles can go Through More models Matrices than Alpha Particles The one which cares through	The candidate identifies the differing penetrating properties of alpha and beta particles but the response is too vague to be given any credit.
the most is beta, the least bleha [2]	Mark awarded for (a) = 0 out of 2
(b) The teacher also has a source that emits gamma rays.	
State two ways in which gamma rays are different from alpha particles. 1. ONL do Martanas hke lead can block gamman ray 2. Jannas comen	2 The difference in the penetrating properties gains 1 of the two available marks.
(c) State an effect of ionising radiation on living things.	Mark awarded for (b) = 1 out of 2
[Total: 5]	3 Correct response is given.
	Mark awarded for (c) = 1 out of 1
	Total mark awarded = 2 out of 5

How the candidate could have improved the answer

(a) The candidate identifies the differing penetrating properties of alpha and beta particles but the response is too vague to gain any credit. The candidate should have included the materials used for determining the sources.

(b) The difference in the penetrating properties gains 1 of the two available marks. Other acceptable responses that could have been given included speed of travel and levels of ionisation.



Example Candidate Response – Iow	Examiner comments
12 Two radioactive sources are used by a teacher. One source emits only alpha particles and the other source emits only beta particles. (a) Suggest how the sources can be identified. The sources can be identified. The sources can be identified by taking orch one of Them and identified by taking cochio.active source emits Apt Alpha ar	 The candidate responds by repeating the question. No credit is given. Mark awarded for (a) = 0 out of 2
beta particles but by identifying them are [2] a.d. a time [2] (b) The teacher also has a source that emits gamma rays.	2 Both responses are the same indicating that gamma rays do not have a charge.
State two ways in which gamma rays are different from alpha particles. 1. gournal 1935 or an interstand 2. Frances news how a charge of the top the second	Mark awarded for (b) = 1 out of 2
(c) State an effect of ionising radiation on living things. 	3 A vague response that is not credit worthy.
	Mark awarded for (c) = 0 out of 1
	Total mark awarded = 1 out of 5

(a) The candidate should have identified a particular method such as 'idea of paper between source and detector'.

(b) Both responses are the same indicating that gamma rays do not have a charge. The candidate should have given two ways in which gamma rays are different from alpha.

(c) 'Damages cells' or 'tissues' would have gained credit.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

(a) Many candidates gained partial credit giving details about alpha being stopped by paper but did not include the use of a detector to gain full credit.



Cambridge International Examinations 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, United Kingdom t: +44 1223 553554 f: +44 1223 553558 e: info@cie.org.uk www.cie.org.uk

® IGCSE is a registered trademark.
 © Cambridge International Examinations 2017
 Version 1.0

